

will give more satisfaction to the public by its interests, if, sweeping changes now, be declaring that it will be a federation to pursue a policy as indicated after union

who was not distinctly heard understood to say that the duties on sugar were unjust to

might concede that, and I the principle on which you

But then comes the question of scales and the specification on each grade carry out secondly, is the change out? My hon. friend can views on the sugar duties and important changes proposed by my honorable

? He proposed a specific duty on refined and two cents

He urged it with all the force he could master—and the House who can state their views in a masterly manner. The question was to impose a duty *ad valorem* on raw sugar, and. [Hear, hear.]

The principle laid down is to pure saccharine element, consistent with the tariff of position I made in 1862 I the principle of the present

must say, Mr Speaker, the elaborate and international endeavouring attention of my hon member for Montreal by the frequent interference of Finance.

I do not think the hon member precisely the party to it. If my hon friend (Mr. Macdonald) was interruptedly have desisted; but as I think the hon member as a right to complain.

I have no desire to object to any do not interfere with me. I wish to put my views before the House in presence of the public, and it will perhaps if I am permitted to do so endeavour to give practical Committee. If my hon friend that I am wrong in my views put right. Now, Sir, the proposals of my hon friend?

In broad terms it is this—to introduce exactly the same scale of duties that Mr Gladstone introduced in 1864, with the exception of the important article of molasses. Mr Gladstone stated his views in these words: "The proposition which I lay down, and which I invite the committee to proceed on, is that the form of our duty should be such as will least interfere with the natural course of trade, and be the least open to the charge of offering to the producer or manufacturer a premium on doing something different from that which he would do if there were no duty at all." In other words, he would offer no inducement whatever to the home refiner to do that in England which might be done cheaper by the foreign refiner abroad. He takes the amount of crystallizable saccharine matter—the matter that can be profitably extracted by the refiner—and puts the duty on that, so that the foreign refiner and the home refiner stand on the same footing, and a purely free trade principle is established that would satisfy the wishes even of my hon friend opposite (Mr Scoble). Now the Canada refiners say that their business has grown up under the present tariff: that they have invested in it at this moment more than a million dollars of capital, and that they employ a large number of skilled hands, who, if this business ceases, must seek employment elsewhere. Now, Sir, if the effect of Mr Gladstone's Tariff, which it is proposed to adopt here, has been to ruin the English refiner, who has labor, coal, and everything else that he requires in his manufacture at a much less cost than they can be procured here, who gets his machinery free, instead of paying 20 per cent duty on its importation—if, above all, Mr Gladstone himself has admitted within the last three weeks that he has reason to fear that in practice that tariff is faulty, that it has induced refining abroad rather than in England, I think my hon friend will see that his proposition ought to be amended or modified, or rather held in abeyance, when we see what its practical working in Europe is proved to be. (Hear, hear.) We must not deal hardly or harshly with such important interests. One of the most enterprising firms we have in the country inform us that they have just put up a refinery costing some hundreds of thousands of dollars, in the belief that the present rates of duty would be maintained; but the Minister of Finance comes down with a new tariff, the effect of which may be, I do not say it will, to prevent him from lighting his fires. I do not appear here as the advocate of any one individual or class; but I trust I shall not be deterred, by the fear of being called so, from doing that individual or class the same justice that I claim for every other interest. I do not wish any tariff to be adopted that will prevent the consumers of the country from getting sugar as cheaply as be-

fore; but I say that if by our former policy we induced men to put money into this business, and have thereby built up a manufacture which affects a large number of people, we ought to be very cautious in taking measures that will crush it, and crush also other manufacturing enterprises in the future, because that may be the result of the adoption of this scheme unmodified. What have been the results under Mr Gladstone's tariff? Several large refineries have been entirely shut up, as I am informed; and it is stated also that, while previous to that tariff the importations of refined sugar into England were 15,400 tons, now, since its adoption, they have risen to 49,300 tons. (Hear, hear.) Thus, the tariff has done that which Mr Gladstone himself was willing to avoid—given a bonus to the foreign over the home refiner. In introducing that tariff, Mr Gladstone said that it was with the greatest difficulty that he adopted the scales it proposed, because it was next to impossible, without going through the experiments that have since been commenced, to determine the true standard according to which the duties should be levied without giving the advantage either to the home or foreign refiner. Since that time so important was the subject considered, that an international commission was named by France, Belgium, England and other countries interested in sugar refineries, to consider and report the best method of levying the duties. That commission is still sitting, and so difficult is it to deal with the question, that they have actually gone to the expense of erecting what may be called an international sugar refinery, so that, by experiments as to the true value of the different grades of sugar, they may determine exactly what the proper rate of duty should be. Now, Sir, with all these facts before us—with the knowledge that refineries in England have been closed in consequence of Mr Gladstone's tariff—that it has brought in 50,000 tons of foreign refined sugar as against 15,000 tons before, without cheapening it to the consumer—this House is asked to consider the propriety of adopting that tariff, which Mr Gladstone himself admits must be altered as soon as this international commission have concluded the series of elaborate and costly experiments which they have commenced. (Hear, hear.) Now, in connection with this, I would like to put a question to the Government as bearing on the practical working of their proposed change, because still I admit they may be theoretically right. Everything depends on the scales and standards. There are five different grades and rates of duty proposed, besides the duties on cane juices and molasses. And I wish to know whether the Government have procured and have on hand these standards which are actually in force at this moment, because it requires not only careful appraisement, but also the nicest